AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the Specification:

Please replaced the paragraph beginning on page 6, lines 7, and ending on page 6, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Once a transaction is assigned to a particular transaction engine, the various database accesses that such a transaction engine may require are separated by the transaction engine, performed, and the result of the transaction then passed ~~pack~~back to the transaction switch. In general then, the transaction engine is defined as the entity that accepts the transaction, involving one or more database accesses, performs the transaction in however many accesses and queries are required, and then passes back the result to the transaction switch that assigned the transaction to the transaction engine. In the preferred embodiment, the transaction engine has no knowledge of the particular client application 240-243 requesting the transaction, and the client 240-243 has no knowledge of the particular transaction engine performing the transaction.--